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**EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**County Medical Officer**

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**1942**

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNTY HALL,  
IPSWICH



EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
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## TABLES.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL,

IPSWICH.

*August, 1943.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the County Council.*

MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1942; this is short, as the three previous reports for the war years have been. The Ministry of Health desire this brevity.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

B. WOOD-WHITE,

*County Medical Officer.*



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## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 548,607 acres.—1st April, 1934.

Population 1942 : 172,980.

(As estimated by the Registrar-General).

Population, Census 1931 : 207,475.

Number of inhabited houses, Census 1931 : 52,513.

Number of families or separate occupiers, Census 1931 : 53,933.

Rateable Value : £1,013,836 (year beginning 1st April, 1942).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £3,569 (estimated). Year beginning 1st April, 1942.

## Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

*Geology, Industry, Commerce.* These subjects are dealt with in the Survey Report for 1930 and there has been no alteration requiring comment; those desiring information are referred to that Report.

1942

## Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Births :	M.	F.	Total.	
Legitimate ....	1,358	1,397	2,755	
Illegitimate ....	109	85	194	
Total live births	1,467	1,482	2,949	Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 17.05.
Stillbirths :				
Legitimate ....	46	34	80	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still-births) :— 17.54.
Illegitimate ....	2	4	6	
Total stillbirths	48	38	86	
Deaths :	1,216	1,218	2,434	Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated population :— 14.07.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal Sepsis .... ....	3	.98
Other Puerperal Causes	5	1.65
Total .... ....	8	2.64

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births .... .... .... ....	40.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ....	40.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ....	41.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages) .... .... .... ....	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) .... .... ....	3
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .... .... ....	10
„ Cancer (all ages) .... .... .... ....	398
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population .... ....	2.30
Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 population ....	.45

### Population.

Year.	Population.
1931	207,475 Census Return.
1940	199,500
1941	179,400
1942	172,980

The civilian population of the County continues to decrease; this year the figure given by the Registrar-General is almost 6,500 less than in 1941; this fall is less than that of the previous two years and it is caused by civilians entering the Services.

TABLE I.

### BIRTHS.

*(Still Births are excluded).*

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1940	2789	14.4	13.7	14.0	14.6
1941	2873	17.04	15.0	15.8	14.2
1942	2949	17.77	16.62	17.05	15.8

This year the birth rate is higher than it has been since 1924, when it was 17.8; the number of births in 1942, however, is far less than the number for that year—approximately 850. However, more babies were born in 1942 than in any year since 1937.

TABLE II.

### ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

*(Still Births are excluded).*

Year.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.		
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.
1940	142	0.6	0.8	0.7
1941	199	1.1	1.1	1.1
1942	194	1.27	1.04	1.1

There is a tendency for this rate to rise in war-time, but in spite of this, the rate this year is the same as that for 1941 and lower than any in the war period from 1916 to 1919. For the first time the urban rate is higher than the rural.

TABLE III.  
DEATHS.

Year.	Total.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.				Administrative County Corrected Death Rate.
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.	
1940	2824	15.2	13.4	14.16	14.3	12.45
1941	2488	15.4	13.0	13.87	12.9	—
1942	2434	15.3	13.4	14.07	11.6	—

The Registrar-General again has given no correction for the death rate; therefore, the crude death rate only can be given and this is not comparable with the rate for England and Wales. The crude death rate is higher than last year, but lower than that of 1940.

TABLE IV.

Quinquennium.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Births.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1928-32 ...	12,381	16,271	3,890
1933-37 ...	12,895	14,595	1,700
1938-42 ...	12,922	14,425	1,503

This table is a profit and loss account of births over deaths for each five-yearly period shown. The position for 1938-42 is an improvement on 1937-41, which itself was better than 1936-40—the comparable figures being, 1,503, 1,226, 1,145—so that for the moment the dangerous nearness of the numbers of births and deaths has gradually become less.

The actual excess of births over deaths for 1942 was 515; in 1941 it was 385; in 1940 however, the number of deaths exceeded births by 35, while in 1939 there was an excess of births over deaths of 248.

1940 was the first time that deaths had ever exceeded births. A position such as this was expected, but hardly so soon. However, the tide appears now to be flowing the other way.

## Infant Mortality Rate.

TABLE V.  
DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

Year.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.			
		Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1940	128	45	47	46	55
1941	132	47	45	46	59
1942	119	41	40	40	49

The infant mortality rate is considerably lower this year; it had only been better on two occasions, in 1935 and 1939. For the third year of the war the rate is satisfactory, and I think that the careful planning of food distribution has had something to do with it. The figures for 1916-17-18-19 were 79, 77, 78 and 78, respectively; in 1920 there was a sudden fall to 61. Planning for the home front in the last war fell far below the planning in the present war and these figures support this contention.

TABLE VI.

## INFANT MORTALITY OVER FIVE-YEARLY PERIODS.

Quinquennium.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1928-1932 ....	16,271	775	47.6
1933-1937 ....	14,595	61†	42.0
1938-1942 ....	14,340	631	44.9

## II.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

## STAFF.

## Medical Staff (whole-time):

*County Medical Officer:* B. Wood-White.

*Deputy County Medical Officer:* A. G. Atkinson.

*County Bacteriologist:* (Acting) P. H. Martin.

*Assistant County Medical Officers:* H. Pedler, W. M. Burns, C. M. Whiteford, E. A. Parkinson, E. Graham (joined the services), M. Gibson (temporary).

## Nursing Staff (whole-time):

*Supervisor of Midwives:* F. MacDonald.

*Assistant Supervisor of Midwives:* M. Thompson.

1 Orthopaedic Nurse and 2 Health Visitors.

## County Sanitary Staff (whole-time):

*County Sanitary Officer:* A. E. Chapman.

*Assistant County Sanitary Officers:* G. H. Hine

Ivon W. Fenn (on Service).

## District Medical Officers of Health:

## Urban Districts:

Aldeburgh	...	...	C. D. Somers.
Beccles	...	...	L. Gibson.
Bungay	...	...	H. Pedler.
Eye	...	...	H. Pedler.
Felixstowe	...	...	G. J. Conford.
Halesworth	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Leiston	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Lowestoft	...	...	V. R. Walker.
Saxmundham	...	...	D. W. Ryder Richardson.
Southwold	...	...	J. Borham for D. W. Collings.
Stowmarket	...	...	H. Pedler for E. Graham.
Woodbridge	...	...	C. Whiteford.

## Rural Districts:

Blyth	...	...	W. M. Burns.
Deben	...	...	C. Whiteford.
Gipping	...	...	C. Whiteford for E. Graham.
Hartismere	...	...	H. Pedler.
Lothingland	...	...	L. Gibson.
Samford	...	...	A. G. Atkinson for E. Graham.
Wainford	...	...	H. Pedler.

### County Laboratory.

The number of specimens examined at the County Laboratory for the past three years were:—

1940	...	...	...	11,220
1941	...	...	...	10,732
1942	...	...	...	13,723

The examinations carried out at the County Laboratory have increased by over 3,000, and the total is higher than the record figure of 1931, when a large number of milks were examined for butter fat and multitudinous agglutination tests were performed for carriers of bacillary white diarrhoea in chickens—an examination quickly performed.

The number of throat swabs, which before the laboratory became one of the Emergency Public Health Laboratories, never reached 3,000, now varies between 4,000 and 5,000. Widal reactions are higher this year, and faeces which never exceeded 700 before, reached 1,139. Wassermann and Kahn reactions also rose from 735 in 1939 to 4,292 in 1942. All these increases are largely due to examinations for the County Borough of Ipswich.

Certain items have decreased in number, particularly the biological examinations of milk, which are performed mainly for the County; there is a fall in the number of water analyses; in 1938 the laboratory carried out a large number of analyses—due to the Croydon outbreak of typhoid, which stimulated Councils generally to interest themselves in their own water supplies.

### III.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This part of the Report deals with the Administrative County, excluding Lowestoft, which is a Local Supervising Authority and an Authority for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes.

#### Summary of Visits Paid by Health Visiting Staff.

		1942.	1941.
First visits to children under 1 year	...	2,006	2,108
Re-visits to infants under 1 year	...	16,229	15,675
Visits to expectant mothers	...	9,860	9,955
Visits to children 1-5 years	...	25,426	26,470
 Totals	...	53,521	54,208

#### Nursing in the Home.

There are 64 District Nursing Associations; 71 Nurses are employed by the District Nursing Associations and 6 Emergency Nurses by the East Suffolk County Nursing Association—a total of 77, 44 of these Nurses use a car and 2 auto-cycles for their work.

The categories of Nurses undertaking work for the County Council at the end of the year:—

		Emergency Nurses.
Queen's Nurses	...	16
Trained Nurses	...	13
District Nurses	...	37
Vacancies	...	5
 Total	...	71

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Summary for years 1941 and 1942:—			1942.	1941.
Number of openings	...	...	729	692
Number of attendances:—				
Ante-natal	...	...	1,082	1,225
Post-natal	...	...	24	13
Children	...	...	18,333	16,568
Average attendance of children a session	...		25.15	23.9
Number of consultations with Medical Officer:—				
Mothers, Ante-natal	...	...	835	1,155
Mothers, Post-natal	...	...	19	12
Children	...	...	5,741	5,970
Average number of consultations per child each session attended by Medical Officer			10.2	10.9

22 Infant Welfare Centres were in commission during the year. Seven were equipped as ante-natal centres. Special ante-natal clinics were held at Felixstowe, Stowmarket and Ipswich. A new centre was opened at Yoxford and the centre at Southwold was closed, both in the autumn of 1942.

Again, the number of post-natal attendances and consultations with Medical Officers is extremely small. In my view, post-natal examination is as important as ante-natal; the proportion of ante-natal to post-natal consultations during the year was 44 to 1.

## Centres functioning at the end of 1942.

Aldeburgh	*Farnham	Nacton
Beccles	*Felixstowe	Newbourne
*Bramford	Kirton	Otley
*Brantham	Halesworth	*Stowmarket
Bungay	Kesgrave	*Woodbridge
Charsfield	Kessingland	Wrentham
Eye	Leiston	*County Hall, Ipswich

\* Equipped as ante-natal centres.

## Institutional Provision for Maternity Cases.

181 women were confined in institutions under the Council scheme, compared with 175 in 1941. There is little difference in the figures for the two years; however, from 1934-38 the numbers were between 50 and 70.

*Unmarried mothers.*—The County Council contributed towards 4 cases under their agreement with the Diocesan Moral Welfare Association.

## Obstetric Consultant Service.

The Obstetric Consultants were called upon 4 occasions during 1942; this is a service which has never been greatly used and its zenith was reached in 1939 with 15.

## Home Helps.

Home helps were provided for two persons. It is very difficult to obtain home helps because of the drastic call upon women for the Services

and industry; those women remaining at home are fully occupied and it is becoming increasingly hard for many mothers to make arrangements for the care of their children and home during their confinement.

### Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.

17 cases required financial assistance for extractions, fillings, scalings, dentures, etc.

### Maternal Mortality.

There were 8 deaths, 3 from puerperal sepsis and 5 from other causes. The mortality rate for the County was 2.64 for each 1,000 births, compared with 2.01 for England and Wales; last year the comparable figures were 1.02 for the County and 2.23 for England and Wales. 2 of the 8 deaths occurred in Lowestoft which, for Maternity and Child Welfare purposes, is apart from the County. The rate for Lowestoft this year is 4.07 and when the Lowestoft deaths are excluded from the County, it lowers the County rate to 2.36. The County rate will always vary considerably because of the big effect which even one death has on the rate and, therefore, fluctuation must be expected.

There is a dramatic fall in the rate for the country and although in the past the County rate has been better than that for England and Wales, it has been lower on one occasion only (in 1941) than the rate for the country this year. If the rate for England and Wales is maintained at this low level then it appears to be unlikely that the County rate can compete with it.

*Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000  
live births.*

<i>Five-yearly period.</i>	<i>Administrative County.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1928-32	...      ...	3.9      4.3
1933-37	...      ...	3.2      4.0
1938-42	...      ...	2.4      2.7

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

10 cases were notified. 5 were treated at home and 5 in hospital. In all cases the vision was unimpaired.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

In the County (excluding Lowestoft), 30 cases were notified; of these, 10 were treated at home and 20 in hospitals, through arrangements made by the County Council. 2 patients died in hospital. This year a larger percentage of cases were treated in hospitals through the Council's scheme than before. 6 of the cases notified occurred in the Borough of Lowestoft, with one death.

### Midwives.

105 midwives practised in the County during 1942. 2,353 births came to notice through notification by doctors, parents, midwives and Registrars (excluding Lowestoft), but the Registrar-General returns the number of total births as 2,543. 1,100 confinements were attended by

midwives as midwives and 1,020 as maternity nurses. For the second year running the midwives have taken more cases as midwives than as maternity nurses.

### Registration of Nursing Homes.

11 homes were on the register as maternity or nursing homes. 6 institutions were exempted.

### Orthopaedic Treatment.

Children under 5 years of age:—

*In-patient treatment*—Individual children, 9 (7 once, 1 twice and 1 four times).

*Out-patient treatment*—Individual children, 49.

Number of attendances	...	...	...	178
Number of X-rays taken	...	...	...	12
Number of surgical appliances supplied	...	...	...	23

### Child Life Protection.

The number of children under supervision at the end of the year was 316, compared with 289 in 1941.

## IV.

### VACCINATION.

	Adminis. County.			Excluding Lowestoft.	
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1940.	1941.
Total births registered during year	2,707	2,602	2,559	2,069	2,218
Successfully vaccinated	937	990	1,232	969	1,215
Insusceptible of vaccination	...	8	29	15	28
Statutory declaration of conscientious objection	...	1,467	1,245	965	878
Died unvaccinated	...	83	67	85	48
Postponement by medical certificate	10	8	14	7	14
Removal to other districts and Vaccination Officer apprised	...	41	39	64	30
Removal to places unknown and cases not found	...	71	47	47	37
Percentage of children successfully vaccinated	...	34.6	38.4	48.1	46.8
					54.8

There has been a distinct tendency since the war began for the number of vaccinations to rise and this year shows the highest percentage since the County Council took over vaccination from the Board of Guardians. The year 1939 with a percentage of 34.6 was the lowest reached. The rise in vaccinations corresponds with the decline in the number of statutory declarations of conscientious objections; the increase in percentage in 1941 may be due to some extent to the fact that in that year all registers were called in and carefully scrutinised and instructions were given to Vaccination Officers. This, however, is not entirely responsible for the change because in 1940 there was an unexplained jump from 34.6 to 38.4.

## V.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supplies.**

There is nothing to report under this heading.

**Sewage Disposal.**

There is nothing to report under this heading.

**Pollution of the River Gipping.**

The River Gipping, which had lain dormant since 1937, again attracted public attention this year. The first record on our files about the pollution of the river, dates from 1914; of recent years the only period in which the river was clean was from 1932-35, the time of the industrial depression, and there is no doubt that the Works alongside the river banks at Stowmarket are responsible for polluting the river in varying degrees. The proof of pollution is difficult because this changes from time to time and the only way to establish a cast-iron case would be to empty the river and to keep a continuous watch upon the waste-pipes from the works, day and night; this is impossible, particularly in war-time, because a head of water must be kept up in case of fire.

The procedure for stopping pollution is cumbersome and the Local Authority having established a case (a most difficult thing to do when there are many possible offenders) must ask the Ministry of Health to hold an enquiry; if permission is given to proceed under the Rivers, Prevention of Pollution, Acts, the Local Authority has to apply to the Courts for a number of injunctions to stop pollution. It is unlikely in these times, when factories are engaged on essential war work, that permission would be given to proceed, and, if it were given, it is certain that the Courts would refuse to grant injunctions.

I believe that there is no practical remedy now, and that a new sewerage scheme for Stowmarket must be awaited at the end of the war—a scheme to which considerable attention has been given and by which it is proposed to deal with all factory effluents. A conference was held at Stowmarket not very long ago, at which all parties interested, including representatives from the Works, attended; this had no real effect in preventing pollution of the river, for at the time of writing the condition of the river is as bad as ever.

## VI.

## HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS.

TABLE VII.

Progress of Scheme approved by the Minister of Health under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926 and 1942.

Position at 31st December, 1942.

## ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF GRANTS BY THE COUNCIL.

Purpose for which assistance required.	Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grants have been :—	Made to the Council.	Refused by the Council.	Withdrawn by applicants.	Assistance promised by the Council :—	Assistance given by the Council :—		Number of dwellings :—
						Total Amounts of grants promised.	Total Amounts of grants paid.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	On which work has been commenced but not finished.
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings ....	50	6	14	2,808. 4. 0	29	2,808. 4. 0	29	—
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings ....	1,247	120	195	72,948. 19. 8	932	72,148. 19. 8	924	1
<b>Total at end of year ...</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>75,757. 3. 8</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>74,957. 3. 8</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>1</b>

## VII.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

35 samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli in 1942; none was found to be positive.

3 investigations were carried out by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture; one was successful; in the other two an assumption was made about the origin of infection, but without proof.

- (1) 51 cows in the herd. After a series of inspections and examinations the milk from one cow was found to be positive and the animal was slaughtered. There were frequent changes in this herd; between the date of taking the first positive sample and the Veterinary Surgeon's inspection, 25 cows had been sold and the character of the herd materially altered. In this case it is not certain that the slaughtered cow was the only one infecting the original milk.
- (2) 19 cows in the herd. No cow was found to be passing tubercle bacilli in the milk. One cow, however, was sent to the knackers between the taking of the positive sample and the investigation and as this cow was losing condition and appeared to be suffering from a wasting disease, the conclusion was drawn that this animal was responsible for the positive milk.
- (3) 45 cows in the herd. The investigation failed to reveal any animal responsible for infecting the milk with the tubercle bacillus.

## Milk (Special Designations) Order.

*Accredited Milk.*—The number of licences in force at the end of the year was 260. 19 licences were suspended and 4 suspensions were revoked.

863 samples of milk were collected and examined. 286 were found to be unsatisfactory, a percentage of 33.1 compared with 26.4 in 1941.

*Tuberculin Tested.*—30 licences were in force at the end of the year. There were no suspensions.

75 samples were taken, 18 were found to be unsatisfactory, a percentage of 24 compared with 26.1 in 1941.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

270 samples of food and drugs and 6 informal samples of Anti-Gas ointment were taken for analysis by the Public Analyst; the samples of Anti-Gas ointment were all satisfactory; 4 of the food and drugs samples were found to be adulterated and 12 otherwise unsatisfactory.

A letter of caution was sent about the stale condition of a sample of semolina.

The Clerk of the Council was informed of a sample of Baking Powder which was found to be deficient in total gas yield and in available gas yield. He communicated with the manufacturers and as the explanation was satisfactory, no further action was taken.

Letters of caution were sent in respect of 11 unsatisfactory milk samples.

Legal proceedings were taken in 3 cases:—

1. 14% added water in milk      Defendant fined £1 and £1 costs.
2. 24% added water in milk      Defendant fined £5.
3. 22% deficient in milk fat      Case dismissed.

Again I call attention to what appears to be a very inadequate punishment for fraud—a defendant is fined £5 only for supplying milk, one-quarter of which is water; this is an offence, particularly in war-time, which requires a severe penalty. A fine of £100 would be adequate and would have a salutary effect. This example of magisterial leniency in cases 1 and 2 is an incentive to milk sellers with fraudulent propensities to take the risk and profit while the going is good, and the penalty negligible.

## VIII.

## SHOPS ACTS, 1912-36.

No inspections of shops were made during 1942.

## IX.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

## Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

(See Report for 1938).

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1942.

TABLE VIII.

Infectious Disease:	Number of cases notified.	Number of deaths.	Attack rate per 1,000 Population.		Case Mortality rate (per cent.) Administrative County
			Administrative County.	England and Wales.	
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	228	—	1.32	2.19	0.0
Diphtheria ...	26	2	.15	1.05	7.7
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	.006	0.02	100.0
Pneumonia ...	132	65	.76	1.07	49.2
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	3	—	—	Unknown
Poliomyelitis ...	4	1	.023	Not given	25.0
Whooping Cough ...	485	2	2.8	1.73	.41
Measles ...	337	2	1.95	7.46	.59
Cerebro-spinal fever	14	4	.08	0.14	28.6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	32	3	—	—	9.4

*Smallpox*.—This condition has been absent from the County since the outbreak of the milk type of the disease, which was prevalent in the county in 1928-29.

*Scarlet Fever*.—The number of cases of scarlet fever is a little below the usual figure for the last few years; there were no deaths. In the last four years one death only occurred in about 1,200 cases. The attack rate for the country was higher this year, while the County rate remains almost identical.

*Diphtheria*.—The incidence of diphtheria in the County was, as usual, low and the attack rate was one-seventh of that for the country. The case mortality rate was high, there were two deaths, while last year there was none; one death occurred in a woman in the age group 45-50 years, and the other in a child in the 5-15 age group.

*Enteric Fever.*—There was only one case of enteric fever, with 17 last year and 7 in 1940; unfortunately, the only case notified died.

*Encephalitis Lethargica.*—As usual, there were no notifications, but three deaths were reported.

*Poliomyelitis.*—Four cases were notified. Two cases occurred in one house, one of which was fatal.

*Whooping Cough.*—This condition has declined very much since last year, when over 1,000 cases were notified; the attack rate has fallen both in the country and the County.

*Measles.*—1941 was a year when measles was rife and, as was expected, it was followed by a year with a few cases. The case mortality rate, however, is higher, having risen from .1 to .6.

*Cerebro-Spinal Fever.*—This disease, which is uncommon except in war-time, has been included in the table this year. The case mortality is much lower than it was in the last war owing to the discovery of new drugs, but even so it is not so low as might have been expected.

## X.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IX.

Cases certified as having died of Tuberculosis. Figures furnished by the Registrar-General.

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
1939 ... ... ...	79	16	95
1940 ... ... ...	82	13	95
1941 ... ... ...	66	21	87
1942 ... ... ...	60	18	78

The number of deaths from tuberculosis is very low this year; once only has this figure been equalled, in 1938. The population at risk, however, is less owing to the large number of young people who have entered the Services. War, which brings with it overwork for a large part of the people, always stimulates the death rate from tuberculosis to rise; the expected rise has not yet happened in East Suffolk and the death rate has only once been lower. One reason for this position is possibly the absence of factories in the area, the energy of the County being mainly absorbed by agriculture.

### Deaths from Tuberculosis.

TABLE X.

Figures furnished by the Registrar-General.

Five-yearly Period.	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Total.
1928-1932 ... ... ...	610	139	749
1933-1937 ... ... ...	486	123	609
1938-1942 ... ... ...	358	75	433

This table gives a good idea of the decline of tuberculosis; if figures of earlier days are examined the difference is manifest. The number of deaths from 1911 to 1915 was 1,093, and for the war years, 1915 to 1919, 1,226—nearly three times as many deaths as that of the last five years, a very significant difference between the two war periods. The outlook as far as this scourge is concerned is cheerful. The reduction of deaths in twenty-four years to one third of the number is remarkable and if the process continues, and there seems to be no reason why it should not, tuberculosis will be a somewhat uncommon disease by the end of the century.

### Death Rates—Tuberculosis.

TABLE XI.

Year.	All Forms.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Administrative County.	England and Wales.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1939	.45	.64	.38	.54	.07	.10
1940	.48	.68	.41	.57	.07	.11
1941	.48	.69	.37	.57	.12	.12
1942	.45	.62	.35	.51	.10	.11

The death rate from tuberculosis for England and Wales showed a slight rise in the first and second years of the war; the County rate was also slightly higher than in 1939. If, however, a graph is drawn and the rates plotted, it will be seen that the line of fall is exceeded for 1940 and 1941, for the country, but not for the County where the rates are where one would expect them to be if there had been no war. In 1938, there was a low freak figure, which I mentioned at the time could not be maintained, and this rate when plotted on a graph falls far below the expected course. There is more difference between the rate of the country and the County in the County's favour in the last five years, than in the five years which preceded them.

### *Tuberculosis (All Forms).*

Official County Rate	...	...	...	.45
Rate with immigrants excluded			...	.43
Rate with immigrants and deaths from other causes excluded	...	...	...	.43

### Deaths of notified cases of Tuberculosis during 1942.

Notified after death	...	...	...	4
Within one week of notification	...	...	...	4
1 week to 1 year after notification			...	28
1 year to 5 years after notification	...	...	...	21
From 5 years onwards after notification	...	...	...	11
				—
Total		...	...	68
				—

896 examinations were made by the Tuberculosis Officers during 1942, compared with 968 in 1941. 216 cases were on full time and 90 on part-time work; 122 were able to be about and 51 were confined to bed.

318 specimens of sputum were examined, 107 being positive. In 1941, 135 specimens were found to be positive.

210 pulmonary and 78 non-pulmonary cases were removed from the register during the year.

*Primary notifications.*—88 pulmonary cases and 75 non-pulmonary, a total of 163 for the year. Last year there were 183 primary notifications; this year, the pulmonary notifications have declined by 35, and the non-pulmonary have increased by 15.

*Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.*—9 new cases had this treatment. 3 completed treatment; 3 had advanced disease and treatment ceased. 29 patients were continuing treatment at the end of the year.

5 patients entered the County requiring refills and 3 others left to continue treatment elsewhere.

#### *Institutional Treatment.*

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—75 patients were admitted to institutions. 49 were discharged; 22 died; 46 remained in the institutions at the end of 1942.

*Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—52 cases were admitted to institutions; 48 were discharged; 3 died; 22 remained in the institutions at the end of 1942.

#### *Number of patients receiving residential treatment:*—

		1940.	1941.	1942.
Pulmonary	...	100	93	110
Non-Pulmonary	...	52	55	64
Total	...	152	148	174

TABLE XII.

1.	No. of cases on Dispensary Register, 1st January, 1942	...	495
2.	No. of cases transferred <i>from</i> other areas and cases returned after discharge under (3) below in previous years	...	30
3.	No. of cases transferred <i>to</i> other areas, not desiring further assistance under the tuberculosis scheme and cases "lost sight of"	...	69
4.	Cases written off as "dead" all causes in 1942	...	61
5.	No. of "T.B. Plus" cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1942	...	191
6.	No. of X-ray examinations for Dispensary Cases	...	276

Although the number of cases on the register on the 1st January, 1942, was higher by 26 than in 1941, nevertheless, the number of T.B. plus cases on the register at the end of 1942 was lower by 17.

## XI.

## TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

TABLE XIII.

## Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.

Area from which Patients came.	No. of New Cases.		Total number of attendances.	
	1942	1941	1942	1941
East Suffolk ... ...	316	253	3005	2116
Great Yarmouth ...	46	37	663	589
Norfolk ... ...	9	7	53	12
Total :	371	297	3721	2717

*Lowestoft V.D. Clinic.*—No in-patient treatment was given in 1941 or 1942. As the war proceeds so the number of new cases at this clinic increases, but the attendances do not rise correspondingly. In 1938 there were 96 new cases with 3,541 attendances, in 1941, 253 new cases and 2,116 attendances, and in 1942, 316 new cases and 3,005 attendances.

TABLE XIV.

## Venereal Diseases. (East Suffolk Patients Only).

Centre.	No. of East Suffolk Persons seen for the first time and found to be suffering from:—			Total No. of Attendances at Out-patient Clinics.	Aggregate No. of In-patient days.
	Syphilis.	Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhœa.		
* Lowestoft ...	141	—	60	115	3005
Ipswich ...	(2) 22	(1) 2	(+) 26	(8) 51	(1674) 3274
Other Treatment Centres ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ....	163	2	86	166	6279
				417	231

N.B.—The figures in brackets relate to attendances of members of H.M. Forces and are included in all totals.

\*I have been unable to obtain the differentiation between civilian and Service patients from this Clinic.

*Table XIV.*—The most striking thing in this table is the high proportion of cases of syphilis to gonorrhoea treated at the Lowestoft clinic; in the past the number of cases of syphilis has very occasionally outnumbered that of gonorrhoea, but the difference was slight. This year, however, cases of syphilis exceeded gonorrhoea by more than two to one. New cases from East Suffolk of all types of venereal diseases attending the two clinics were:—

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Lowestoft	... 72	60	88	162	201
Ipswich	... 66	36	34	45	50

These figures suggest that in that part of the County relying upon Ipswich for treatment there is no real increase in the incidence of venereal diseases through the war, but in the area served by Lowestoft the war has had a very decided and detrimental effect.

The following figures relate to the number of new cases seen for the first time at the Clinics:—

	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
Syphilis	... 163	90	68	43	64
Gonorrhoea	... 86	117	56	55	77
Soft Chancre	... 2	—	—	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—
	251	207	124*	99	141†

\* 1940. 2 cases (one syphilis and one gonorrhoea) were seen at a treatment centre other than Ipswich or Lowestoft.

† 1938. 3 cases of gonorrhoea seen at another treatment centre.

## XII.

### CANCER DEATH RATE.

TABLE XV.

Year.	No. of Deaths.			Death Rate per 1,000 Population.			
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Urban.	Rural.	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
1939	202	215	417	2.03	1.95	1.98	1.62
1940	193	163	366	2.08	1.66	1.83	1.66
1941	175	209	384	2.3	2.05	2.14	1.67
1942	203	195	393	2.6	2.12	2.3	1.69

The Cancer death-rate is misleading, except in the Census years, when the number of persons in each age group is known; it is more misleading in war-time in a rural County such as East Suffolk, because so many young people leave the area for the Forces, and this disturbs the balance in the age groups. Therefore, though the death rate from Cancer is higher this year than ever before, this does not mean that the liability of persons to die from cancer is

increasing in this area. It is quite possible, if the numbers in the age groups were known, and compared with the Census year of 1931, there would be no real increase in the death rate in each age group, but owing to the aging population there would appear to be a considerable increase.

The number of deaths has been exceeded before three times; in 1935, 1938 and 1939, and for the second time the unusual position has occurred with the male deaths higher than the female deaths—this happened once before, in 1940.

### XIII.

#### MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913 to 1938.

TABLE XVI.

##### *Mental Defectives in East Suffolk:*

Number on books:—		1941.	1942.
Males	...	677	572
Females	...	710	703
Total	...	1,387	1,275

##### *Dealt with by Joint Committee:*

In institutions	...	...	316
On leave of absence from institutions		...	40
Under guardianship	...	...	25
Under statutory supervision	...	...	152

##### *Dealt with at instance of parent or Suffolk Mental Welfare Association:*

In training homes	...	...	15
In Royal Eastern Counties Institution		...	22
Under voluntary supervision	...	...	613

##### *Defectives in Public Assistance Institutions:*

Total	...	1,275
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### XIV.

#### BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1938.

Total blind persons: 433. 179 males and 254 females. Of these, 406 are unemployable; 17 are employed and 10 come into other categories. 32 blind persons are mentally defective; 7 physically defective; 28 are deaf.

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EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
County Medical Officer

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1942

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNTY HALL,  
IPSWICH